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Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

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Lindsey Cao  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
4232 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302

### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED LINES A-1, C-4, AND F-2 SEWER BRIDGES SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2004-00287-KW), LAS VIRGENES AND TRIUNFO CREEKS, CITIES OF CALABASAS AND WESTLAKE VILLAGE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 03-175)**

Dear Ms. Cao:

Regional Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (the Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on November 13, 2003.

I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003 - 0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges that have received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

The Applicant shall be liable civilly for any violations of this certification in accordance with the California Water Code. This certification does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits.

Should you have questions concerning this certification action, please contact Valerie Carrillo, Lead, Section 401 Program, at (213) 576-6759.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Original signed by]  
Dennis A. Dickerson  
Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 19, 2004  
Date

### **California Environmental Protection Agency**

\*\*\*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption\*\*\*  
\*\*\*For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>\*\*\*



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Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

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## ATTACHMENT A

### Project Information File No. 03-175

1. Applicant: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
4232 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
  
Phone: (818) 251-2163      Fax: (818) 251-2159
2. Applicant's Agent: Matt Ingamells  
Padre Associates, Inc.  
1861 Knoll Drive  
Ventura, CA 93003  
  
Phone: (805) 701-0245      Fax: (805) 644-2050
3. Project Name: Lines A-1, C-4, and F-2 Sewer Bridges Seismic Retrofit Project
4. Project Location: Cities of Calabasas and Westlake Village, Los Angeles County  
  
Line A-1 (Las Virgenes Creek)  
Longitude: 118° 42' 22";    Latitude: 34° 08' 01"  
  
Line F-2 (Triunfo Creek)  
Longitude: 118° 49' 18";    Latitude: 34° 07' 57"  
  
Line C-4 (Non-jurisdictional)
5. Type of Project: Sewer retrofit
6. Project Description: *Purpose:*  
The purpose of the proposed project is to implement modifications at three pipeline stream crossings to prevent failure during a seismic event. The crossings include the following:
  - Line A-1 crossing at Las Virgenes Creek;
  - Line C-4 crossing of Lindero Canyon Creek; and
  - Line F-2 crossing of Triunfo Canyon Creek.

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The District has determined that these crossings do not meet current seismic engineering standards. The proposed project consists of the retrofit of the sewer pipeline crossings to prevent the failure of these pipelines in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

#### *Description:*

The proposed project of the retrofit of three sewers pipelines crossings (line A-1, Line C-4, and Line F-2 crossings). Depending on the retrofitting activities required at each of the subject line crossings, the proposed project involves repairing or replacing seat extensions, joint seals, support cables, abutments, dresser couplings, expansion joints and/or rubber connectors, installation of pipe linings, and installation of temporary bypass pipelines to transport sewage.

#### *Line A-1:*

The Line A-1 sewer pipeline crosses Las Virgenes Creek in the City of Calabasas, from near the Lost Hills Road/Cold Springs Street intersection across the creek to Wright Middle School on Las Virgenes Road. This crossing consists of an aboveground 205-foot long cement-lined steel pipe with an internal diameter of 12 inches. The pipe is supported by abutments on both sides of the creek and a center pier. The pipe is also supported by vertical steel cables attached to a horizontal cable and column at the center pier. Las Virgenes Creek is perennial with the low flow channel along the west bank.

Modeled transverse (lateral) movement of the pipeline crossing during a maximum credible earthquake would exceed the displacement capacity of the welded steel pipe and cause a failure of the bridge and pipeline. The proposed modifications focus on the installation of six concrete anchor blocks (deadman) and a system of lateral cables to limit lateral movement.

Approximately 0.18 acres of vegetation would be temporarily cleared to provide access to the work area. This includes clearing a 10-foot-wide access path from Lost Hills Road. Access to the center pier and eastern abutment would be provided from Wright Middle School using previously disturbed areas.

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#### *Line C-4:*

The line C-4 sewer pipeline crosses Lindero Canyon Creek from Lindero Canyon Road (City of Westlake Village) east to Reyes Adobe Road (City of Agoura Hills). This crossing consists of an above-ground 207-foot-long cement-lined ductile iron pipe with an internal diameter of 14 inches. The pipe is strapped to steel beam, which is supported by abutments on both sides of the creek and four steel pilings (see Figure 4). Lindero Canyon Creek is perennial in most years, with the low flow channel located about 50 feet west of the eastern abutment.

The project work area for the C-4 crossing would not fall under the Regional Board jurisdiction and is therefore not considered an impact within this Certification.

#### *Line F-2:*

The Line F-2 sewer pipeline crosses Triunfo Canyon Creek near the intersection of Lindero Canyon Road, in the City of Westlake Village. This crossing consists of an above-ground 146-foot-long, 33 inch-diameter clay pipe enclosed within a pre-stressed concrete beam. The pipeline spans the Creek with a single pier placed midway between the abutments. A manhole is located immediately adjacent to each abutment. Triunfo Canyon Creek is perennial with the low flow channel located along the south bank, south of the center pier.

Modeled longitudinal and transverse displacement during a maximum credible earthquake would cause the footing of the pier to fail, resulting in a potential collapse of the structure, and failure of the joint seals and leakage of wastewater into the Creek. The proposed modifications are:

- Add reinforced concrete catcher block/shear keys on the top of the pier where the concrete beam rests and at both abutments;
- Add a longitudinal restrainer to the concrete beam above the pier;
- Enlarge the pier footing from 10 feet by 12 feet to 14 feet by 16 feet;
- Install a seismic joint in the pipe between the two spans (at the pier); and
- Line the clay pipeline with resin-impregnated material.

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To prevent crossing surface waters of Triunfo Canyon Creek, vehicle and equipment access would be obtained from both north (Triunfo Canyon Road) and south (Sherwood Drive) of the pipeline crossing. Most work would be conducted north of the surface flow channel at the center pier via an existing access ramp, and on the south bank through the mobile home park on Sherwood Drive, which would only be required for construction of one catcher block and installation of the wastewater flow diversion. Equipment access would be selected to minimize loss of native vegetation. However, about 0.11 acres of vegetation would be cleared at the Line F-2 crossing site.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. Federal<br>Agency/Permit:  | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers<br>NWP No. 3 (Permit No. 2004-00287-KW)   |
| 8. Other Required<br>Regulatory Approvals:                          | California Department of Fish and Game<br>Streambed Alteration Agreement   |
| 9. California<br>Environmental Quality<br>Act (CEQA)<br>Compliance: | The proposed project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities).                           |
| 10. Receiving Water:  | Las Virgenes Creek (Hydrologic Unit No. 404.24)<br>Line A-1<br><br>Triunfo Creek (Hydrologic Unit No. 404.25)<br>Line F-2                              |
| 11. Designated Beneficial<br>Uses:                                  | Las Virgenes Creek:<br>MUN, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, COLD, WILD, RARE, MIGR,<br>SPWN, WET<br><br>Triunfo Creek:<br>MUN, GWR, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE |

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12. Impacted Waters of the United States: Las Virgenes Creek (A-1):  
Federal jurisdictional wetlands: 0.01 temporary and 0.005 permanent acres
- Triunfo Creek (F-2):  
Federal jurisdictional wetlands: 0.06 temporary and 0.002 permanent acres
- Non-wetland waters (vegetated streambed): 0.01 temporary acres
13. Dredge Volume: None
14. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: The Applicant has not identified any related projects carried out in the last 5 years or planned for implementation in the next 5 years.
15. Avoidance/Minimization Activities: The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:
- A qualified biologist shall work with design engineer and construction contractor to delineate the minimum feasible work area to minimize loss of sensitive riparian vegetation;
  - The delineated work area shall be clearly marked with highly visible construction fencing or flagging;
  - All native trees within delineated work area that shall be removed to allow work activities shall be cut to the ground surface with the root crown left intact to allow sprouting following completion of the project;
  - A Regional Board-approved stormwater pollution prevention plan shall be followed, which shall include all standard BMP's to prevent turbidity, contamination, or other impacts to waters of the United States;
  - Wastewater diversions would be conducted such that no wastewater is discharged to surface waters or storm drains.

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Wastewater contained in the pipeline crossings would be emptied prior to conducting work activities; and

- Where feasible, work activities involving heavy equipment (including concrete pumper trucks) would be implemented from paved areas located above the banks of each creek.

16. Proposed  
Compensatory  
Mitigation:

The Applicant has proposed to provide funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to provide compensatory mitigation (in-lieu fees) for the restoration of a designated area at a ratio of 4:1. Permanent impacts associated with this project include 0.007 acres of wetland areas and the mitigation shall provide funding for the restoration of 0.028 acres.

In addition, all areas which are temporarily impacted will be restored (0.08 acres). Restoration shall include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species to the extent feasible.



## ATTACHMENT B

### Conditions of Certification File No. 03-175

#### STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to §3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

1. This certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to §13330 of the California Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR §3867).
2. This certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR Subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR Chapter 28 and owed by the Applicant.

#### ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Pursuant to 23 CCR §3859(a), the Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board copies of any other final permits and agreements required for this project, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 Permit and the California Department of Fish and Game's Streambed Alteration Agreement. **These documents shall be submitted prior to any discharge to waters of the State.**
2. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this certification, the approved maintenance plan, and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times so they are familiar with all conditions set forth.
3. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, operation, and storage of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the state. At no time shall the Applicant use any vehicle or equipment which leaks any substance that may impact water quality. Staging and storage areas for vehicles and equipment shall be located outside of waters of the state.

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### Conditions of Certification File No. 03-175

4. No construction material, spoils, debris, or any other substances associated with this project that may adversely impact water quality standards, shall be located in a manner which may result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the state.
5. The Applicant shall implement all necessary control measures to prevent the degradation of water quality from the proposed project in order to maintain compliance with the Basin Plan. The discharge shall meet all effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established to comply with the applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements, including the provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. This Certification does not authorize the discharge by the applicant for any other activity than specifically described in the 404 Permit.
6. The discharge shall not: a) degrade surface water communities and populations including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species; b) promote the breeding of mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, midges, or other pests; c) alter the color, create visual contrast with the natural appearance, nor cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the receiving waters; d) cause formation of sludge deposits; or e) adversely affect any designated beneficial uses.
7. The Applicant shall allow the Regional Board and its authorized representative entry to the premises, including all mitigation sites, to inspect and undertake any activity to determine compliance with this Certification, or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code.
8. The Applicant shall not conduct any activities within waters of the State during a rainfall event, or at any period when site conditions would lead to excessive erosion. If any activities are to be held within **five (5) days** of a predicted rainfall event, the Applicant shall stage materials necessary to prevent water degradation on site, and shall ensure that all stabilization procedures are completed prior to the rainfall event.
9. No activities shall involve wet excavations (i.e., no excavations shall occur below the seasonal high water table). A minimum **5-foot** buffer zone shall be maintained above the existing groundwater level. If construction or groundwater dewatering is proposed or anticipated, the Applicant shall file a **Report of Waste Discharge** to this Regional Board and obtain any necessary NPDES permits/Waste Discharge Requirements prior to discharging waste. Sufficient time should be allowed to obtain any such permits (generally 180 days). If groundwater is encountered without the benefit of appropriate permits, the Applicant shall cease all activities in the areas where groundwater is present, file a Report of Waste Discharge to this Regional Board, and obtain any necessary permits prior to discharging waste.
10. All surface waters, including ponded waters, shall be diverted away from areas undergoing grading, construction, excavation, vegetation removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. If surface water diversions are anticipated, the

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Applicant shall develop and submit a **Surface Water Diversion Plan** to this Regional Board. The plan shall include the proposed method and duration of diversion activities, erosion and sediment controls, and a map or drawing indicating the locations of diversion and discharge points. The plan shall be submitted prior to any surface water diversions. If surface flows are present, then upstream and downstream monitoring for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and total suspended solids shall be implemented. These constituents shall be monitored on a **daily** basis during the first week of diversion activities, and then on a **weekly** basis, thereafter, until the in-stream work is complete. Results of the analyses shall be submitted to this Regional Board by the **15th** day of each subsequent sampling month. A map or drawing indicating the locations of sampling points shall be included with each submittal. Diversion activities shall not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of water quality objectives of the receiving waters. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

11. The Applicant shall restore all areas of TEMPORARY IMPACTS to waters of the United States and all other areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the state. Restoration shall include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species to the extent feasible. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
12. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION for the proposed permanent impacts to **0.007 acres** of vegetation within Federal jurisdictional wetlands by creating or restoring Federal jurisdictional wetland habitat at a minimum 4:1 area replacement ratio (**0.028 acres**). As an alternative, the Applicant may provide adequate funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the creation or restoration of a total of 0.028 acres of Federal jurisdictional wetlands. The mitigation site shall be located within the watershed to the extent feasible unless otherwise approved by this Regional Board. The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable quality and shall be defined by latitude and longitude. This information shall be submitted to this Regional Board for approval prior to any disturbance within waters of the United States and shall include copies of any agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.
13. All open space and mitigation areas shall be placed within a conservation easement to ensure preservation in perpetuity. Documentation of proper easement placement shall be submitted to the Regional Board within one year.

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14. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** by **January 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** after planting or until mitigation success has been achieved. The report shall describe in detail all of the project activities performed and all restoration and mitigation efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. This report shall include as a minimum, the following documentation:
  - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;
  - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation areas;
  - (c) The overall status of project including a detailed schedule of work;
  - (d) Copies of all permits revised as required in Additional Condition 1;
  - (e) Water quality monitoring results (as required) compiled in an easy to interpret format;
  - (f) A certified statement of “no net loss” of wetlands associated with this project;
  - (g) Discussion of any monitoring activities and exotic plant control efforts;
  - (h) A certified statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.
15. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Board shall be signed:
  - (a) For corporations, by a principal executive officer at least of the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if such representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which discharge originates;
  - (b) For a partnership, by a general partner;
  - (c) For a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor;
  - (d) For a municipal, state, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

**Conditions of Certification**  
**File No. 03-175**

- "I declare under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed they system or those directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

\_\_\_\_ (Signature)  
\_\_\_\_ (Title)''

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an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

22. *Enforcement:*

- (a) In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification.
  - (b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the SWRCB deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall be a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
  - (c) In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the SWRCB or RWQCB may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
23. This certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this certification. The Applicant may request a renewal of this certification 180 days prior to its termination, if the project as described has not been completed. Renewals may be granted in five-year (5-year) increments, are subject to additional filing fees and will require Regional Board approval. If the Applicant fails to request a renewal prior to the Certification's expiration, then the Applicant shall submit a new application and appropriate filing fees.